2/11/87 A3275-2

TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, February 5, 1987 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended January 31 totaled an estimated 16.8 billion ton-miles, 0.2 percent below the corresponding week of 1986, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first five weeks of 1987 was an estimated 78.6 billion ton-miles, down 4.6 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended January 31 totaled 366,787, down 0.9 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 0.5 percent above the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were down 7.6 percent in the East and up 7.0 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 14 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. However, grain increased by 2,417 cars (10.6 percent) and chemicals and allied products showed a gain of 1,475 cars (6.0 percent). Thirteen of the 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended January 24 totaled 92,550 trailers and/or containers, 0.8 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first four weeks of the year was 341,915 trailers and/or containers, up 2.5 percent from 1986.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 1/31/87:

	Loadings in Week ended January 31, 1987		Change from Corresponding Week 1986			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	25,235	I	2,417	10.6	I	1,311	5.5
Other farm products	4,190	D	158	3.6	D	429	9.3
Metallic ores	11,890	D	832	6.5	D	1,109	8.5
Coal	100,400	D	6,641	6.2	D	4,137	4.0
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	8,974	I	516	6.1	D	542	5.7
Nonmetallic minerals	7,186	D	1,617	18.4	D	1,174	14.0
Grain mill products	11,418	I	689	6.4	I	37	0.3
Food and kindred products	11,025	D	135	1.2	I	83	0.8
Primary forest products	10,320	D	224	2.1	I	812	8.5
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,608	I	476	5.9	I	480	5.9
Pulp, paper and allied products	13,574	D	627	4.4	I	638	4.9
Chemicals and allied products	26,043	I	1,475	6.0	I	1,180	4.7
Petroleum products	5,163	I	202	4.1	I	502	10.8
Stone, clay and glass products	7,948	D	557	6.5	D	326	3.9
Coke	3,838	D	293	7.1	D	85	2.2
Metals and products	8,332	D	128	1.5	I	701	9.2
Motor vehicles and equipment	21,939	D	695	3.1	I	774	3.7
Waste and scrap materials	8,085	D	236	2.8	D	6	0.1
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,933	D	2,815	49.0	I	26	0.9
All other carloads	69,573	I	5,938	9.3	I	3,028	4.6
LCL traffic	113	D	32	22.1	I	29	34.5
Total Cars Loaded	366,787	D	3,277	0.9	I	1,793	0.5
Corresponding week of 1986	370,064						

	1987	1986	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (5 weeks)	1,738,325	1,815,826	D 4.3
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
Four Weeks ended January 24	61.9	65.6	D 5.7
Week ended January 31	16.8	16.8	D 0.2
5 Weeks cumulative	78.6	82.4	D 4.6

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